IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently Amended)   A method of generating a depth map
~~(122)~~ comprising depth values representing distances to a viewer,
for respective pixels of an image ~~(100)~~, the method comprising the
steps of:

[[-]]   determining a contour, using a determining unit, ~~(106)~~ on
the basis of pixel values of the image ~~(100)~~, the contour ~~(106)~~
comprising a collection of adjacent points;

[[-]]   computing curvature vectors, using a computing unit, ~~(108-114)~~ at a number of the points; and

[[-]]   assigning, using an assigning unit, a first one of the
depth values corresponding to the first one of the pixels on the
basis of the curvature vectors ~~(108-114)~~.

2.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ The method of generating a depth map
~~(122)~~ as claimed in Claim 1, ~~whereby~~ wherein the step of assigning
the first one of the depth values comprises the sub-steps:

_____computing depth derivatives on the basis of the respective
curvature vectors; ~~(108-114)~~ and

_____computing the first one of the depth values on the basis
of a first one of the depth derivatives.

3.   (Currently Amended)   ~~A~~ The method of generating a depth map
~~(122)~~ as claimed in Claim 2, ~~whereby~~ wherein a size of a first one

of the depth derivatives is computed on the basis of the length of a first one of the curvature vectors.

4. (Currently Amended) A The method of generating a depth map (122) as claimed in Claim 2, whereby wherein a direction of a first one of the depth derivatives is computed on the basis of the orientation of a first one of the curvature vectors.

5. (Currently Amended) A The method of generating a depth map (324) as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the method further comprising comprises the steps of:

[[-]]   computing a collection of average vectors (320) on the basis of the curvature vectors (310), the average vectors (320) having mutually equal lengths; and

[[-]]   assigning a first one of the depth values corresponding to the first one of the pixels on the basis of the average vectors (320).

6. (Currently Amended) A The method of generating a depth map (324) as claimed in Claim 5, whereby wherein the collection of average vectors (320) is computed by means of parallel transport.

7. (Currently Amended) A The method of generating a depth map (324) as claimed in Claim 5, whereby wherein assigning the first one of the depth values comprises computing depth derivatives on the basis of the respective average vector, (320) and computing the

first one of the depth values on the basis of a first one of the
depth derivatives.

8. (Currently Amended)   A The method of generating a depth map
(122) as claimed in Claim 7, whereby wherein a size of a first one
of the depth derivatives is computed on the basis of the length of
a first one of the average vectors (320).

9. (Currently Amended)   A The method of generating a depth map
(122) as claimed in Claim 7, whereby wherein a direction of a first
one of the depth derivatives is computed on the basis of the
orientation of a first one of the average vectors (320).

10. (Currently Amended)   A depth map generating unit (401) for
generating a depth map (122) comprising depth values representing
distances to a viewer, for respective pixels of an image (100), the
depth map generating unit (401) comprising:
[[-]]   determining means (402) for the determining a contour
(106) on the basis of pixel values of the image (100), the contour
(106) comprising a collection of adjacent points;
[[-]]   computing means (403) for computing curvature vectors
(108-114) at a number of the points; and
[[-]]   assigning means (404) for assigning a first one of the
depth values corresponding to the first one of the pixels on the
basis of the curvature vectors (108-114).

11.   (Currently Amended)   An image processing apparatus ~~(500)~~

comprising:

[[-]]   receiving means ~~(502)~~ for receiving a signal corresponding

to an image ~~(100)~~; and

[[-]]   a depth map generating unit ~~(401) for generating a depth~~

~~map (122)~~, as claimed in Claim ~~1~~10, <u>coupled to the receiving means</u>

<u>for generating a depth map</u>.

12.   (Currently Amended)   A <u>computer-readable storage medium</u>

<u>having stored thereon a</u> computer program ~~product to be loaded by a~~

~~computer arrangement,~~ comprising instructions <u>for causing a</u>

<u>computer</u> to generate a depth map ~~(122)~~ comprising depth values

representing distances to a viewer, for respective pixels of an

image ~~(100)~~, the computer arrangement comprising processing means

~~and a memory, the computer program product, after being loaded,~~

~~providing said processing means with the capability to carry out~~<u>for</u>

<u>performing, under control of the computer program, the steps of</u>:

[[-]]   determining a contour ~~(106)~~ on <u>the</u> basis of pixel values

of the image ~~(100)~~, the contour ~~(106)~~ comprising a collection of

adjacent points;

[[-]]   computing curvature vectors ~~(108-114)~~ at a number of the

points; and

[[-]]   assigning a first one of the depth values corresponding to

the first one of the pixels on <u>the</u> basis of the curvature vectors

~~(108-114)~~.